

Plymouth Generating Project

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0345)

Responsible Agencies: Benton County, Washington (Washington State Environmental Policy Act [SEPA]); U.S. Department of Energy; Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) (National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA]).

Title: Plymouth Generating Facility (PGF)

Abstract: Plymouth Energy, L.L.C. proposes to construct and operate a 307-megawatt (MW), natural gas-fired, combined cycle power generation facility that would be interconnected with BPA's regional transmission system. The PGF would be located on a 44.5-acre site, 2 miles west of the rural community of Plymouth in southern Benton County, Washington. The project would be interconnected to BPA's proposed McNary-John Day 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line approximately 4.7 miles west of BPA's McNary Substation. Natural gas would be supplied to the project by an 800-foot pipeline lateral from the Williams Northwest Gas Pipeline Company Plymouth Compressor Station, which is located adjacent to the project plant site. Water for project use would primarily be supplied from a groundwater well whose perfected rights will be transferred to the project. Wastewater from project operations would be supplied to the neighboring farm for blending and use for crop irrigation.

This environmental impact statement (EIS) evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed project and determines if any environmental impacts would result. The environmental evaluation of the proposed project includes the proposed power generation facility, which includes the plant, gas pipeline, and water supply/wastewater pipeline; high voltage transmission interconnection; and access road.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action evaluated in this EIS include the transmission interconnection alternatives, an access alternative, and the No Action Alternative (project is not constructed and operated). The two transmission interconnection alternatives are (1) an interconnection to BPA's 230-kV transmission line located in the same physical location as the proposed BPA 500-kV line, and (2) a direct interconnection to BPA's McNary Substation via the Benton Public Utility District line. The access alternative includes one alternate access road for use during project construction, and another alternate access road for use during project operation.

Proposal's Sponsor: Plymouth Energy, L.L.C.

Date of Implementation: Construction of the PGF is scheduled to begin in the third quarter of 2003 and is projected to be completed 24 months later. Construction of the transmission interconnection and gas supply pipeline would occur in 2004.

List of Possible Permits, Approvals, and Licenses: The PGF would require a Conditional Use/Special Permit and grading and building permits from Benton County, a Notice To Construct air permit from the Benton Clean Air Authority, a Hydraulic Project

Approval from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and permits for stormwater and wastewater disposal during construction and operation from the Washington State Department of Ecology. Consultation with the Federal Aviation Administration for height obstructions is required, as is approval of the BPA to interconnect with the BPA transmission system.

Authors and Principal Contributors to the Draft EIS (DEIS): URS Corporation, working under the direction of Benton County and the BPA, is the principal author. MFG, Inc. is the principal contributor to the air quality and visibility analysis, and the noise analysis.

Date of Final Lead Agency Action: Following completion of the Final EIS (FEIS) and its certification by Benton County (SEPA), the County can complete its review process for issuance of the Conditional Use/Special Permit and subsequent building and other permits. These approvals are expected in the first quarter of 2003. Following completion of the FEIS by BPA (NEPA), BPA can issue a Record of Decision (ROD) with regard to interconnection of the PGF to the BPA transmission system. The ROD is expected to be issued in the first quarter of 2003.

For additional information on the DEIS, or to request additional copies, please contact:

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Location of Background Information: You may access the DEIS (without maps) and find out more information about the project on the BPA website at www.efw.bpa.gov. Copies of the DEIS (including maps) are available for public review at the following locations:

Umatilla Public Library
911 7th Street
P.O. Box 820
Umatilla, Oregon 97882-0820
(541) 922-5704

Mid-Columbia Library District
55403 S. Olympia Street
Kennewick, WA 99337
(509) 376-4627

Prosser Public Library
902 Seventh Street
Prosser, WA 99350
(509) 786-2533

Cost of Copy to the Public: There will be no cost for the DEIS.

For information on the U.S. Department of Energy NEPA activities, please contact Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, by mail at Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-25, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, Washington D.C.; or by telephone at 1-800-472-2756; or visit the website at www.eh.doe/nepa.